

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8-11, 16, 20 and 21 were pending. Claim 1 has been amended and Claims 18-19, and 21 have been canceled, leaving Claims 1, 8-11, 16, and 20 for consideration in the present amendment.

Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found at least in original Claim 21 and on page 16, third full paragraph. It is believed that the amendments made herein may be properly entered at this time, i.e., after final rejection, because the amendments do not require a new search or raise new issues and reduce issues for appeal. Moreover, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 21, which was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of then limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims Rejected Under 35 USC 112

Claims 1, 8-11, 16, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The rejection has been rendered moot in view of the amendment to Claim 1. In particular, the term "element" has been amended to "copper atom". Accordingly, the rejection is requested to be withdrawn.

Objection to Claim 21

The objection to Claim 21 has been rendered moot in view of the cancellation thereof.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)/103(a)

The Claims stand variously rejected under 35 USC 102(b)/103(a) as being obvious over US Pat. No. 4,980,257 to Anno, U.S. Pat. No. 4,702,987 to Fukuchi, US Pat. No. 6,013,406 to Moriki, and as evidenced by ACS STN Nos. 147-14-8 and Applicants Admissions III.

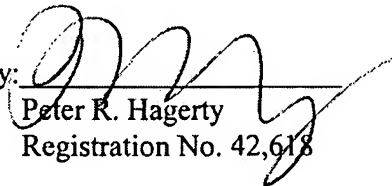
Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 21, which was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the various rejections are requested to be withdrawn.

The foregoing is fully responsive to the Office Action.

The Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative should there be any remaining issues with the above noted application. If there are any charges with respect to this amendment, or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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